

December 28, 1950.

Dear Max:

Following your last letter, I formally wrote up a set of contract proposals, which are being set through channels here. As usually happens, the responsible officials leave town precisely when the papers reach their desk, but they should reach you in a week or ten days. The University must be almost as complex as your Commission: for this rather simple request, the papers have to go through four or possibly five successive channels, but in fact, the red tape goes rather smoothly.

Belatedly following your advice, I increased the request from \$600 to \$1000, so that I will be able to put on an assistant on the project starting next September. I will not insist on this increase, however, if there should be any hesitation about it.

Not much new scientifically: I've been too busy in the office. I've decided not to put out a special paper yet on the effects of UV, etc., on the diploids. I started to write one, but found it necessary to make so many detailed explanations about the behavior of diploids, that it soon became clear that I'd have to polish up the data on their "normal" behavior. I still can't say I understand the mechanism of elimination which leads to Mal hemizyosity, but I've about reached the point where it does not seem worthwhile to pursue it any longer for the time being. I'm hoping that the new studies on crosses between different coli strains will eventually bring me back to that problem, but with a more definite approach.

As Stahler wrote, here's hoping we can face the new year without shuddering.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg